

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system configured to distribute liquid flow into predetermined proportions, said system comprising:

a distributor defining a plurality of distributor outlets configured to deliver liquid from said distributor; and

a receptacle positioned to receive liquid, said receptacle defining a plurality of receptacle outlets oriented to deliver liquid portions toward said distributor outlets, wherein at least one liquid portion from at least one of said receptacle outlets collects in an interior of said distributor;

said receptacle being self-leveling such that liquid is divided by said receptacle outlets into predetermined proportions and said receptacle outlets reside in a plane substantially parallel to the level of said liquid collected in said interior of said distributor;

wherein said receptacle includes at least one float coupled to said receptacle to level said receptacle by action of buoyancy of said float in contact with said liquid collected in said interior of said distributor, said buoyancy maintaining said receptacle horizontally level when said distributor is not level.

2. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 1, wherein each of said receptacle outlets comprises an orifice, passageway, weir, notch, or conduit.

3. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The system recited in claim 1, said distributor comprising means for defining chambers configured to receive liquid from said receptacle.

6. (Original) The system recited in claim 5, said defining means comprising one or more of a wall, a divider, and a compartment.

7. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said system is configured to restrict movement of said receptacle with respect to said distributor, thereby maintaining orientation of said receptacle outlets to deliver liquid portions toward said distributor outlets.

8. - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim [[8]]1, further comprising means for suppressing movement of said liquid collected in said interior of said distributor as said distributor moves.

13. (Original) The system recited in claim 12, wherein said suppressing means comprises one or more of an orifice, a baffle, or a porous medium.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The system recited in claim 7, wherein a surface associated with said receptacle is positioned to contact a surface associated with said distributor, thereby restricting movement of said receptacle with respect to said distributor.

16. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 15 ~~further comprising~~
~~wherein said at least one~~ float coupled to said receptacle, ~~said float being~~ is positioned to contact said surface associated with said distributor.

17. (Original) The system recited in claim 15 further comprising a surface of said distributor at least partially defining a chamber, said chamber surface being positioned to contact said surface associated with said receptacle.

18. (Original) The system recited in claim 1, wherein said receptacle is pivotally mounted for movement with respect to said distributor.

19. (Original) The system recited in claim 18, said receptacle being configured to remain horizontally level by the force of gravity when said distributor is not level.

20. (Original) The system recited in claim 19, said receptacle having a central portion that is upwardly convex.

21. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim [[4]]1, further comprising:
a support coupled to said distributor, said receptacle being pivotally mounted to said support for movement with respect to said distributor, said receptacle being configured to remain horizontally level by the force of gravity when said distributor is not level such that liquid is divided by said receptacle outlets into predetermined proportions.

22. (Original) The system recited in claim 21, wherein said receptacle is coupled to said support so as to limit movement of said receptacle with respect to said distributor to maintain orientation between said receptacle outlets and said distributor outlets.

23. (Original) The system recited in claim 1, wherein said receptacle is pivotally suspended for movement with respect to said distributor.

24. (Original) The system recited in claim 23, wherein said receptacle is pivotally suspended so as to limit movement of said receptacle with respect to said distributor to maintain orientation between said receptacle outlets and said distributor outlets.

25. (Original) The system recited in claim 23, said receptacle being configured to remain horizontally level by the force of gravity when said distributor is not level.

26. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing liquid flow into predetermined proportions, said method comprising the steps of:

supplying liquid to a receptacle;

delivering liquid from the receptacle through a plurality of receptacle outlets and toward outlets of a distributor, such that at least a portion of the liquid from the receptacle is collected in an interior of the distributor; and

self-leveling the receptacle with respect to the distributor such that liquid is divided by the receptacle outlets into predetermined proportions and the receptacle outlets are maintained in a plane substantially parallel to the level of liquid collected in the interior of the distributor, wherein the step of self-leveling comprises floating the receptacle on the liquid collected in the interior of the distributor.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a liquid distributor to distribute liquid flow into predetermined proportions according to claim 29, said method further comprising the steps of:

positioning the receptacle to receive liquid;

orienting outlets of the receptacle to deliver liquid toward outlets of the liquid distributor, such that at least a portion of the liquid from the receptacle is collected in an interior of the distributor; and

configuring the receptacle for movement and self-leveling with respect to the liquid distributor such that liquid is divided by the receptacle outlets into the predetermined proportions and the receptacle outlets are maintained in a plane substantially parallel to

the level of liquid collected in the interior of the distributor, wherein the step of configuring comprises floating the receptacle on the liquid collected in the interior of the distributor.

31. - 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 30, ~~wherein a portion of liquid collects in the interior of the liquid distributor, said method further comprising the step of positioning one of the distributor outlets to receive overflow from the interior of the distributor.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 34, wherein said configuring step further comprises coupling at least one float to the receptacle to level the receptacle by action of buoyancy of the float in contact with the liquid collected in the interior of the distributor.

36. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 34, further comprising the step of configuring the distributor to suppress movement of the liquid collected in the interior of the distributor.

37. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 36, said configuring step comprising the installation of one or more of an orifice, a baffle, or a porous medium to suppress the movement of the liquid collected in the interior of the distributor.

38. (Original) The method recited in claim 29 further comprising the step of: restricting movement of the receptacle with respect to the distributor, thereby maintaining orientation of the receptacle outlets to deliver liquid portions toward the distributor outlets.

39. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 38, ~~said self-leveling step comprising floating the receptacle on liquid in the distributor, and wherein said restricting step comprises contacting a surface of a float or a surface of the receptacle to a surface of the distributor.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 29, wherein said self-leveling step comprises further comprises balancing the receptacle with respect to a support coupled to the distributor, thereby maintaining the receptacle level when the distributor is not level.

41. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 30, said configuring step further comprising coupling the receptacle to a support such that the force of gravity maintains the receptacle horizontally level when the distributor is not level.

42. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 29, wherein said self-leveling step ~~comprises~~ further comprises suspending the receptacle with respect to the distributor, thereby maintaining the receptacle level when the distributor is not level.

43. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 30, said configuring step further comprising suspending the receptacle with respect to the distributor such that the force of gravity maintains the receptacle horizontally level when the distributor is not level.